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AUGUST 1, 1956

WEF Triennial Conference Draws World Leaders to Providence, August 27-31

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OFFICIAL NAE ORGAN

Left to right: Dr. J. Elwin Wright, Lt. Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, Dr. Franklin S. Logsdon.

Readers Say—

Endorsements

To the Editor:

'John the Baptist I know and Billy Graham I know, but who is William A. Robbins?' (Readers Say, *Action*, July 1).

How utterly reassuring to know that Dr. Graham has the endorsement of the Holy Spirit even though he may lack that of the mendicant of Merchantville.

A. F. BALLBACH, JR.

Oneonta, N. Y.

Fairminded

To the Editor:

Although I am a Methodist clergyman, a staunch adherent of the National Council and of certain theological viewpoints which border on the heretical in the view of your constituency, I wish to commend you on the excellence of your magazine. I am particularly impressed with the scope of your news coverage, and for the increased awareness your paper is giving me of the life and movement of what is termed "evangelical" Protestantism. I am happy to be on your mailing list.

I am moved to write you now particularly because of the article in the July 1 issue concerning religious broadcasting. Despite the fact that I personally dislike and deplore the commercial broadcasts of the "gospel" type, freedom of religion and freedom of speech demand opportunity of expression.

In short, although differing basically from the NAE, I am glad to have its point of view presented as capably as you are doing.

CLAIR M. COOK

Columbus, Ohio

Temperance

To the Editor:

There was a time when I wondered why more evangelicals from the older denominations were not members of the NAE But I am coming to see how difficult you sometimes make this by opinions which are expressed in the *United Evangelical Action*. It would be refreshing to have a periodical which has editorial representatives from some of our much-maligned denominations.

Your article, "Methodists Smother Temperance Monthly" (*Action*, July 1) seems to be editorialized news reporting which is incomplete and misleading. You fail to state (1) that this is a year for general re-organization of Methodist periodicals which will involve the termination of several magazines and (2) that the General Conference spoke in favor of prohibition. You write: "Many believe this marks the beginning of the end of Methodist crusades for total abstinence and temperance." I would be interested to know the names of two (besides yourself) such daring prophets.

BOB SAMUELSON

Highland, Ill.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: We were glad to print Dr. Caradine Hooton's informative letter on Methodism's future temperance program in our July 15 issue. We pray that the testimony of this great denomination will continue to be strong and clear against the liquor menace.]

Elizabeth Evans Writes

To My Friends:

My visa for India was turned down a second time and there seems no possibility of getting one. I have been requested to return for further work, or to settle permanently, in most of the countries in which I have labored this year, but here in Formosa (Taiwan) there have come the most urgent requests and wide open doors for my type of ministry in Christian education. After filling the six weeks' schedule arranged for me by the Evangelical Fellowship of Formosa, I was given an expression of appreciation and a hearty invitation to remain indefinitely to carry on this same type of work. I feel this is the will of the Lord for me. The EFF has appointed a committee to arrange my itineraries and ministry. Most of my time will be given to churches and schools throughout the island, but I will also help with the organizational work of the Evangelical Fellowship of Formosa, as time permits.

In spite of what Billy Graham said over the radio, following his visit to Formosa, less than 5% of the people on this island make any profession of Christianity at all. Although there are 500 national churches (Presbyterian), modernism and worldliness are sapping the spiritual life of a great many of these churches, and they are actually ministering only to a very small proportion of the population. Nearly all other mission agencies are working among Mandarin speaking people, having come to the Island only within the last few years. There are some very fine Taiwanese pastors but their resources are very limited and the work much too extensive for them. They need help very greatly, especially among their children and young people. It is to these 500 churches, both Taiwanese and Tribes, that I feel especially called to minister, as well as in the Bible schools and seminaries. Since coming to Taiwan, exactly two months ago, I have had 132 services and classes, more than two a day, besides traveling from one end of the country to the other. Largely, they have been teacher training classes and evening evangelistic meetings in Taiwanese churches, but I have had classes in eleven Bible institutes and seminaries of different missions while in their vicinity. Services have been held in eleven cities of Formosa and have usually been attended by most of the church groups working there. Recently I assisted in two three-day intensive courses given to young people from the Tribes villages. As yet, they have no Bible of their own.

I count heavily on your prayers that I may be a real blessing, with the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon me. God bless you each and every one.

ELIZABETH EVANS

Taipei, Taiwan

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Action

United Evangelical Action

An Interdenominational Journal of News and Opinion with a Program for United Action

JAMES DE FOREST MURCH
Editor

VERDA BLOOMHUFF
Office Editor

NAE STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. **We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative word of God.**
2. **We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**
3. **We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.**
4. **We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.**
5. **We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.**
6. **We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.**
7. **We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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Main Building, Barrington Campus, Providence-Barrington Bible College, Providence, R. I.

The World in Providence

J. ELWIN WRIGHT
Co-Secretary World Evangelical Fellowship

THE beautiful "Miracle Dollar" campus of Providence-Barrington Bible College will be the scene of the Triennial Conference of World Evangelical Fellowship this year. The International Committee has announced dates: August 27 (evening) through August 31. Attendance is open to all who register as official delegates, observers or visitors. The Conference will be preceded by meeting of the International Committee, August 24-27 (morning).

Although the International Committee is widely scattered across the world, the attendance of only two members in person or by proxy is in doubt at this time. Delegates and official observers from at least twenty-five countries will be present, as well as a large number of visitors.

Presiding, will be Lt. General Sir Arthur Smith of London, who has been president of World Evangelical Fellowship since its organization in Holland in 1951. He is also chairman of the Evangelical Alliance, which represents World Evangelical Fellowship in Great Britain. The Alliance was the sponsoring organization for the Billy Graham Campaign in London. Mr. A. Jack Dain, co-secretary of the World Evangelical Fellowship office in London, is coming also.

From the Orient and Europe will come top leaders of a score of the national fellowships which have been established during the past five years, as well as greetings from other areas now in progress of organization.

Among these executives will be Dr. and Mrs. A. P. Guruswamy and Rev. James S. Mather of Ceylon. From Formosa Dr. James Graham and two national leaders will come to represent its evangelicals. Japan is sending Rev. Kamoa Oda, Rev. Eiichi Hoshino and Mr. Daniel K. Shudo. Canon Samuel Burgoyne, president of the Evangelical Fellowship of India, and Rev. I. Ben Wati of Assam, now its associate secretary, are coming to represent its interests.

Singapore may have the largest foreign delegation of all, including well-loved Rev. and Mrs. Calvin Chao, Rev. Guoh Koh Muo (pastor of the largest Anglican Church of that Crown colony), Miss Gertrude Guoh, Dr. S. C. Hwo, Rev. Hong Han Kong, and Mr. G. D. James. Expected from the churches of South Vietnam are Mr. Le Van Phu and Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Jackson.

The Philippines will have at least two observers, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Chick. Korea is expecting to send three delegates but final listings have not yet been received. Indonesia will be represented by Dr. Timothy Dzao and Mrs. Dzao, Rev. C. B. Chow, Rev. Girow Khiainkiet, and Mr. Jo Soew Bie. Dr. Dzao will also represent Hong Kong, with Rev. Fred Leung and Rev. Bob Hammond present as official observers.

Both Switzerland and France will be represented by Dr. Rene Pache. Spain is sending Rev. D. Jose Martinez. Thailand will announce its representation later, as will Greece, Hawaii, Egypt and Cyprus.

Mr. Philip Grossman of Wycliffe Translators, Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, editor of *Christianity Today,* Mr. Waldron Scott of the Navigators, Dr. G. W. Peters, representing the Mennonite Brethren of North America, Rev. Ray Oram of Christian Literature Crusade, Rev. H. A. Driver of Congo Inland Mission, Dr. A. C. Snead of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, are among those who have already been announced as official observers.

Although Wales does not have an area organization as yet, Rev. Griffith Quick of Penybryn Congregational Church is coming as an observer, as is Rev. Bernard Lacombe of the Church of God in Haiti.

Attending directors of the World Evangelical Fellowship (American Section) organization will include Dr. Harold J. Ockenga, chairman, Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, Dr. Paul S. Rees, Dr. W. H. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Rottschafer, Dr. Edward L. Friesen, Mr. and Mrs. Ford Mason, Dr. E. Van Halsema, Mr. Clifford J. O. Nelson, and probably many others.

Dr. Paul P. Petticord, president of the National Association of Evangelicals; Dr. George Ford, its executive director, and Dr. James DeForest Murch, editor of *Action* magazine, are also coming.

NAE'S official delegation will be headed by Dr. Petticord and include Dr. Howard W. Ferrin, Dr. Paul S. Rees, Dr. H. H. Savage, and Dr. Frederick Curtis Fowler. Alternates: Dr. Charles Seidenspinner, Mr. William G. Rottschafer, Dr. Stephen W. Paine, Dr. Herbert G. Mekeel and Dr. Harry Hager.

These are but an early indication of the leadership of a Conference which gives promise of being a significant and history-making occasion.

Looming large in the thinking of

most of these leaders are three questions—

One. What is the basic reason for this alignment of Christian leaders in World Evangelical Fellowship?

Two. What practical results have already been accomplished?

Three. What will be WEF's major policies of the next triennium?

These questions no one is authorized to answer fully at the moment. However, because our office in Boston has been one of the principal "listening posts" since the movement was first agitated a decade ago, we have some sort of an idea how the wind of opinion and conviction is blowing in the many countries involved.

In answer to the first query we would say that the movement was born in the hearts of its leaders from a conviction that there is need of understanding fellowship, constant communication and active cooperation between all evangelical believers throughout the world. Also, that effective action is only possible if there is common doctrinal conviction, such as is expressed in the WEF Statement of Faith. They believe that this fellowship should transcend all denominational, national and racial lines. At the same time they are prepared to defend the right of each cooperating group to exercise full autonomy in its organizational work.

The second question is being answered daily by the national units of WEF which are in constant action in such matters as (1) the sharing of spiritual leadership between the countries, (2) the institution or enlargement of schools for the training of leaders, (3) the development of literature programs, (4) the organization of area as well as international conferences where problems are discussed and helpful information exchanged. In many matters WEF can best work behind the scenes, as in the initiation of the preliminary conferences and discussions which resulted in the London and India Billy Graham campaigns, of such inestimable value.

In addition to these things, because we in America are realizing more and more the responsibility that is ours because of our great prosperity, has come the inauguration of the SHARE program, providing a pool of financial resources for the specific purpose of helping our associates with their most baffling emergencies.

The third question is most vital but difficult to answer. We anticipate that the Triennial Conference at Barrington will clarify the future program.

Although there is much talk about the indigenous church, the actual implementation of indigenous programs leaves much to be desired. In certain areas this is undoubtedly due to the reluctance of missions to give over authority to national leaders. Perhaps there is a fear that so doing will leave them with great organizations and no place to go. This might result in a humiliating decline in interest and income. One of the greatest missionary agencies is proving such fears groundless by adapting its work to changed conditions and relocating its staff.

From the viewpoint of the nationals there is growing dissatisfaction that some missions assume that they have the inherent right to remain in actual control of the work of the churches, like an "army of occupation." In many areas the nationals feel that they can do a better job free from the unacceptable paternalism of alien organizations. They may be right, in areas where churches are well established.

On the other hand, experience has demonstrated that in some areas where nationals have a free hand the problem of fragmentization of churches has appeared as a major handicap. Too many would rather be "first man in Gaul than second man in Rome." The result is the multiplication of sects of dubious origin.

Some of us feel that WEF stands in a unique relationship to these problems. Primarily it is organized to provide counsel and assistance to evangelical national leadership, rather than to missions, which have their own well-organized formulas for carrying on.

As we see it, the problem of the indigenous church will be solved by the nationals, not by missions which as yet seem unaware of the significance of the world revolution which is now in progress. An attitude of "we are giving the orders," on the part of those who are alien to the countries most concerned only adds fuel to the fires of dissatisfaction.

If our limited experience during the past ten years in more than 75 countries visited by WEF representatives has revealed anything, it is that nationals everywhere welcome the aid of leaders from other countries, so long as it is not forced upon them. Not only that, but they are usually pathetically grateful for such help, even if it is very limited. They do feel that outside assistance should come at their request, not by having it thrust upon them by decisions made in London, New York or Oslo.

Perhaps it will help us to understand better if we realize that nationals around the world feel that the churches and missions of foreign origin have an entrenched program of what appears to them to be "spiritual colonialism," which sometimes hampers instead of promotes their internal progress and destiny.

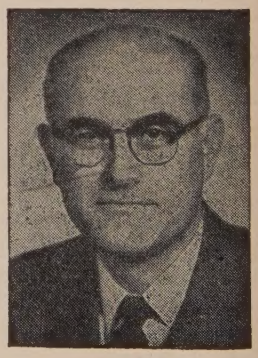
Perhaps the greatest significance of the Barrington Conference will be that there is to be provided on United States soil an opportunity for our brethren from all parts of the world to speak freely of their national aspirations in an atmosphere of equality and sincere sympathy. Out of this exchange of ideas will come to all of us, working together in love and understanding, an opportunity to formulate a program for the coming triennium which will have great international significance.

Harold J. Ockenga

Paul S. Rees

A. P. Guruswamy

Clyde W. Taylor



Paul P. Petticord

PROMINENT FIGURES IN THE TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE, WORLD EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP

Action EDITORIAL

JAMES DeFOREST MURCH, Editor

Editorial Offices: United Evangelical Action, 111 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati 2, Ohio, U.S.A.

Welcome to Providence!

American evangelicals are to have the very great privilege of entertaining many of their Christian brethren from all over the world at Providence, Rhode Island, August 27-31.

Dr. J. Elwin Wright has given an enlightening preview of the forthcoming triennial conference of the World Evangelical Fellowship on page 3 of this issue. Evangelicals who go to Providence will have an opportunity to see the fruition of their dreams of a world organization of Christ-honoring, Bible-believing Christians.

This international undertaking began with the historic visit of Dr. Harold J. Ockenga and Mr. John Bolten, Sr., with leaders of the World Evangelical Alliance in London in 1945. Shortly afterward (1946) the National Association of Evangelicals sent Dr. J. Elwin Wright as its official bearer of greetings and goodwill on the occasion of WEA's Centenary Celebration. These contacts were used of God in bringing about more inclusive conferences at Clarens, Switzerland; Hildenborough, England; and Boston, USA, and eventuated in the organization of the World Evangelical Fellowship at Woudschoten, Holland in 1951.

Since then there has developed a new sense of kinship among evangelicals at the world level. WEF is beginning to function in a most hopeful way. Already its testimony is being heard in far places and the evangelical cause in every land is greatly strengthened and encouraged.

We shall count it a privilege and a joy to confer with brethren of many races, tongues and nations at Providence. Let all evangelicals be in prayer that the conference may mark another milestone of progress in evangelical cooperation and the dawning of a better day in advancing the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Vodka Diplomacy

At General Zhukov's reception for General Nathan F. Twining some weeks ago in Moscow, Soviet big-wigs Khrushchev and Bulganin were so full of vodka that they engaged in a drunken brawl over who should make the main speech of the evening. Nearly everybody was intoxicated. *United States News and World Report* says General Twining "drank politely" when toasts were proposed.

It seems that diplomacy in Russia these days is measured in terms of upraised and downgulped glasses of vodka. The idea is not exactly to get the foreign diplomats drunk but to see how far they will go, via the toast technique, down the road of Soviet Communist policy. The more inebriated they get the farther they go. They often sober up to regret their commitments.

Elliott Roosevelt has revealed in his story of Yalta how everybody got "slap-happy," including his distinguished father, and fraternized with the Stalinists to the everlasting shame of the Western world.

On the other hand, the late Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King was adamant in refusing to participate in vodka feasts when the Reds were our wartime allies. In his memoirs he tells how it was revealed after one of these bacchanalian orgies that his Russian hosts had planned to get his signature on a document promising generous gifts of USA ships to the Soviet Navy.

What hope for peace can come from this vodka diplomacy? Muddle-headed, glassy-eyed representatives of the nations may well lead us down the road to chaos and destruction while Mars looks on in fiendish glee.

Why not call a halt to these USA-Russian exchanges of top brass until it is made clear that Americans will not participate in such gutter tactics?

Would it be incongruous to suggest that future diplomatic discussions be opened with prayer? If this is a God-fearing country, why not act like it once in awhile?

The Living Christ

Christendom's greatest need in these crucial days is a new sense of Christ indwelling the life of the believer through the Holy Spirit. "Christ is here now!" is the miraculous talisman by which Christians may meet every challenge of evil and come through victorious.

Too many so-called Christians believe that Christ is dead. At least, they act like it. They seem defeated, helpless, hopeless and undone in the awful maelstrom that swirls about them. They have no clear, courageous testimony for the times.

Christ Jesus lives today! If Christians can realize this to the full they may enter upon the most glorious spiritual experience known to man. They will be stirred as they have never been stirred before. They will possess power they never imagined possible. They will have poise in the midst of chaos. They will have the peace that passes understanding. They will stand for Bible truth without compromise. They will translate their faith into Christian action in every area of life.

Realize Christ through the Holy Spirit! Know God—abiding, illuminating, empowering, guiding and comforting. Make your profession a living, vital thing. Help give new impetus to the ongoing work of Christ in the world today.

Potpourri

UNDER THE GUISE of reimbursing the Roman Catholic Church in The Philippines for war damage, the USA is about to pay the hierarchy $8,000,000. Protestant churches would get $30,000. Aroused Protestants in the USA are trying to block Congressional action on H.R.6586 . . . AUGUST MARKS the beginning of full-time operation of the NAE's Great Lakes regional office. Director Don Rogers has a heavy field program in prospect . . . LIBERAL CHURCHMEN in the USA keep urging closer cooperation with Red Russia. Do they forget that the Soviet Union has overrun seventeen nations (more than two-fifths of the earth's surface), brought 900,000,000 people into slavery and broken nearly 1,000 treaties and agreements involving peace accord? . . . THE NAE COMMISSION on Spiritual Life is proposing that evangelicals everywhere join in prayer for a great season of refreshing and revival in Billy Graham's forthcoming New York City campaign . . .

Narcotics Bill Passed

Congress recently passed a stiff bill to control the problem of illicit sales of narcotics. It would permit death sentences for the sale of heroin to minors. Other penalties for the violation of the narcotics laws were also increased.

For several years now Congress has been disturbed about the wide-scale unlawful narcotics traffic. A Senate sub-committee headed by Senator Price Daniel of Texas has had the matter under study for some time.

In effect the measure would outlaw heroin. This action is based on a report which states that heroin serves no medical purpose which could not be better performed by other narcotics.

Repeated violaters of the bill's ban on narcotics could be punished by ten to forty years imprisonment and a $20,000.00 fine. Sale of narcotics would bring similar sentences but there could be no suspension or parole for those convicted of selling narcotics.

A spokesman for the Daniel subcommittee stated that the new penalties would "take the profit motive out of dope." Most dealers in narcotics would realize that the risk they are running involves long sentences.

The new law will also strengthen the hand of government officers in imprisoning many of the key offenders in narcotics. The bill sets up new warrant procedures making it easier to arrest offenders and makes it a federal offense to use the telephone, telegraph and mails for the illegal sale of narcotics.

New bills have been introduced which will provide for the comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation of dope addicts. Also introduced are four resolutions which would be effective in meeting the problem of international narcotic trade.

Religious Treaty Clauses

The treaty section of the State Department is under increasing pressure to take a firm position with regard to the inclusion of provision for religious liberty in treaties being negotiated with other powers. In this connection NAE has officially requested that the State Department withdraw from the Senate a treaty with Haiti which had been submitted for ratification (see p. 7).

The Haiti Treaty if ratified would set a dangerous precedent because it omits all reference to religious liberty.

Not long ago the ambassador of Colombia in Washington told a representative of NAE that the treaty with Colombia which was negotiated in 1951 failed because the Vatican had voiced disapproval of the religious clause contained therein. The ambassador stated that the Vatican's disapproval was based on litigation by evangelicals in Italy which invoked provisions of a similar treaty. He further gave indication that the Vatican would make every attempt to contravene any other treaties between the United States and Catholic countries.

If the Haiti Treaty, omitting these provisions were to get Senate approval, who knows whether the Colombian

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Treaty would be next? Then what would transpire if the United States were to undertake treaty negotiations with Spain? The State Department has made attempts to deny that ratification of the Haiti Treaty would affect other treaty negotiations, but when all is said and done it would set a dangerous precedent.

When the Senate Foreign Relations Committee gave indication that it would not ratify the Haiti Treaty during this session, the NAE immediately requested that the State Department withdraw the treaty "until such a time as the usual provisions for religious liberty can be inserted." This request, which was submitted by the Washington office, was based on a resolution passed at the latest annual convention of the NAE held at Cleveland, Ohio.

Airline Safety

The Air Transport Association is making a last-ditch attempt to keep Congress from enacting legislation which would ban liquor from the airlines. Latest ATA move was an announcement that the airlines have agreed voluntarily to limit the serving of alcohol to two drinks per passenger. This is already general practice with the airlines. In this case the ATA is maneuvering in behalf of airline executives who want to hang on to the extra revenue which sale of liquor in flight brings.

The bill to take liquor off commercial airlines was favorably reported to the floor of the House in spite of adverse testimony which had been given by the Civil Aeronautics Board. The measure would ban the serving of liquor on planes in the interest of public safety.

Representatives of the Pilots and Stewardesses Association have carried the ball on this issue, but have had the support of temperance leaders. The Senate sub-committee which would handle this issue has reportedly said that it is ready to hold hearings when and if the House takes favorable action on the bill.

Happy Omission

Religious periodicals have been omitted from the postal increase bill now under consideration in Congress. There seems little possibliity that Congress will amend the bill to include those periodicals, although one spokesman for the House Committee has stated that "perhaps they should." The bill was scheduled for debate in the House early in July.

Postmaster Summerfield has insisted that the Post Office should be paying its own way and that increasing postage rates will be essential in bringing this about. The House bill to put such postage raises in effect would not, however, include religious or non-profit publications, and it is not likely to do so.

Complex Clergy Bill

The Senate amendment to the Air Clergy Bill seems to be somewhat of a gimmick, according to information in Washington.

There is a fellow on Capitol Hill who tells us that one reason for the "available space" provision is the difference between planes and trains. The airplanes it seems cannot hook on another car whenever they want to—at least not yet. Not that the trains have been running extra clergy cars. It doesn't appear that this has been necessary. But some of the air lines do operate most of their flights at full capacity. Thus a reduced-fare clergyman would displace a full-price passenger.

The Senate has been apprehensive that airlines would use any reduction in revenue due to special clergy rates as grounds for a request for further government subsidy.

Government subsidies to the airlines are given in the form of "mail pay." Whenever an airline runs behind the government adds to its "mail pay" in order to help it break even. This is done on the theory that commercial aircraft in the United States are a supplement to the national air defense system. As a result 1/3 of the Nation's commercial aircraft are on 24-48 hour call in case of national emergency.

With the government's system of accounting, it is difficult to know where actual mail pay leaves off and where subsidy begins, but it is clear that the "feeder lines" are in the greatest need of subsidy. Frequently these are the lines which carry only partial loads on many of their flights. Thus an extra inducement to further travel by the clergy on these lines may increase their over-all income in the long run.

On the long hops the larger air lines usually operate at full or nearly full capacity so it is figured that a clergyman riding at reduced fare would displace a passenger paying full fare, thus making for a loss in revenue.

In the light of this rather complex situation the Senate introduced its amendment to make the reduced fare air travel available to the clergy on an "available space" basis. The wording of the bill would, of course, necessitate regulation by the Civil Aeronautics Board, to determine when space becomes available for reduced fare.

It is certain that few ministers could travel long distances on a standby basis. So if the Senate amendment is adopted, and it seems certain that it will be, it will remain for the Civil Aeronautics Board to issue regulations to clear up the situation.

EVANGELICAL NEWSFRONT

RNS AND E/P REPORTS ● UEA CORRESPONDENCE

—INTER-CHURCH—

Congregationalists Ask Change in WCC Formula

OMAHA, Neb. — (RNS) — The General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches proposed at its biennial meeting here that the constitution of the World Council of Churches be changed to include a new theological formula emphasizing the Trinity. The suggested change:

"1. Basis: The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which profess belief in one God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is constituted for the discharge of functions described below:"

A resolution advocating the change was overwhelmingly adopted with only minor debate.

It declared that the formula at present used as the basis for membership in the World Council is "theologically inadequate and therefore not wholly serviceable to the growth of ecumenical unity."

"The General Council holds that only a well-rounded formula, which the various churches of Christendom have long since accepted, can effectively and rightly be used in this connection," the resolution said. "It believes that only a formula expressly trinitarian can serve this purpose."

The resolution also recommends that non-member Churches be invited to attend sessions of the World Council.

New Monthly Warns on Russian Clergy Visits

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (RNS) — A warning that visits of Russian clergymen to the USA may "have the effect of a large dose of soothing syrup" was sounded editorially in the first issue of a new non-denominational monthly published here by the Foundation for Religious Action in the Social and Civil Order.

Called *The Blessings of Liberty,* the publication is edited by the foundation's executive secretary, Dr. Charles W. Lowry, an Episcopal clergyman.

The editorial suggested that present Soviet religious policy is motivated by the "expediency of a safety-valve in a hard-pressed society" and by the "political utility of state-administered obedient churches." It urged American churchmen to recall how freedoms are suppressed in the Communist world and remember the "unabated intent of Communism's high priests to go on to larger victories."

"Communism remains without abatement officially and theoretically committed to the absolute truth of atheism and materialism," the editorial said.

"All Communist leaders from Marx to Maeo Tse-Tung and Khrushchev assume dogmatically that religion is the opium of the people and will be totally eliminated from future society.

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"It is clear that religious policy in the Communist states is never a sentiment or a social embellishment or an expression of ethical and humanitarian principle. It has as its purpose the advance of Communist goals under particular circumstances."

—PUBLIC AFFAIRS—

Treaty With Haiti Too Hot to Handle?

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has officially pigeon-holed a controversial new treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation with the Republic of Haiti which omits the usual guarantee of religious liberty to American citizens on Haitian soil.

The committee announced that its schedule of business is so crowded that it will not be able to conduct public hearings on the treaty at this session of Congress.

Since the treaty cannot go into effect until the Senate ratifies it by a two-thirds vote, this means that the old treaty will remain in force.

Treaties do not die with the end of a Congress but remain on the Senate's calendar of pending business until they are either ratified or withdrawn by the President.

Protestant groups, including the National Council of Churches, National Association of Evangelicals and Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, objected to the treaty's language. They charged that the elimination of the religious liberty guarantee would create a dangerous precedent.

Chairman Walter F. George (D.-Ga.) assured the Protestants that full public hearings will be held before the committee acts on the treaty.

Supermarkets Win Fight Against Sunday Closing

DAYTON, O.—(RNS)—Efforts to close Dayton area supermarkets on Sundays have failed.

The independent Dorothy Lane market, regarded as the "key" to Sunday closing, turned down a proposal to end Sunday hours on a mutual basis with three large chains. This proposal would have affected about thirty-five stores.

A subsequent suggestion that just the chains close Sundays for a sixty-day trial period also was defeated.

The Dorothy Lane market has been open for Sunday business ever since it was established eight years ago. The chains—Kroger, Liberal and Albers—opened Sundays for the first time last October. Officials of these markets have repeatedly said they would close Sundays if Dorothy Lane did.

Informed sources regard the Sunday issue as strictly a commercial fight between the chains and independents.

Efforts to close the stores were spearheaded by a joint committee of the Church Federation of Greater Dayton and the local chapter of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Gideon Bibles Barred From Colorado Schools

DENVER—(RNS)—Attorney General Duke W. Dunbar ruled here that distribution of Gideon Bibles to school children in Colorado violates the principle of separation of Church and State embodied in the Colorado and USA Constitutions.

He issued the opinion at the request of Dr. H. Grant Vest, state education commissioner.

Mr. Dunbar referred to a section of the state constitution which says: "No person shall be required to attend or support any ministry or place of worship, religious sect or denomination against his consent. Nor shall any preference be given by law to any religious denomination or mode of worship."

He also cited a decision three years ago by the New Jersey Supreme Court against the distribution of Gideon Bibles in the public schools. The attorney general said the New Jersey decision held that a local board of education was showing preference by permitting distribution of the King James version of the New Testament.

Dr. Vest said he asked for the ruling at the request of several Colorado school districts, the Colorado Civil Liberties Union and the Anti-Defamation League. Gideon Bibles had already been distributed in several school districts when the opinion was requested.

Miami Gideon Bible Distribution Legal

MIAMI, Fla.—(RNS)—Distribution of New Testaments in public schools here by the Gideons is "reasonable" and legal, the Dade County School Board was advised by its attorneys.

"There is no conflict with any statutory provision," the opinion stated.

Attorney Edward F. Broadman, presenting an opinion requested by the board last March, added:

"The Board of Public Instruction

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Director's Desk

The representative nature of the National Association of Evangelicals is revealed in the personnel of the Executive Committee that is directing the work this year. Geographically it is spread from Rhode Island to Oregon and includes members from New York, Missouri, Illinois, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana and Ohio. Such breadth of distribution is unusual for a committee of thirteen.

Ecclesiastically the new committee represents the major phases of the evangelical movement. The denominational affiliations of the members include Evangelical United Brethren Church, Presbyterian Church, Assemblies of God, Baptist Church, Mission Covenant Church, Wesleyan Methodist Church, United Missionary Church and an Independent. This means that the various theological positions have their place and that both the "old line" and newer denominations are a part of the committee that carries out the directives of the constituent members of the NAE.

Even more important than the breadth of representation is the unity of spirit in which these men work. Here is true spiritual unity in Christ with no attempt at regimentation or control. This is why the NAE is the true voice of Bible-believing Christians of America.

GEORGE L. FORD

Executive Director, National Association of Evangelicals

did not violate any constitutional provision against sectarianism, nor did it illegally interfere with religious freedom when it merely adopted the policy of permitting distribution of Gideon Bibles to seventh-grade students in the Dade County school system."

When the Gideons started distributing the Bibles an attorney representing the American Civil Liberties Union asked that the practice be stopped. He said he believed it violated the principle of separation of Church and State.

Government Official Urges Weekday School

OBERLIN, O.—(RNS)—A high-ranking government official urged here that American churches step up their program of weekday religious education and "make it effective."

Addressing the first National Conference on Weekday Religious Education, Bradshaw Mintener of Washington, D.C., assistant secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, said "an hour or two of religious instruction on Sunday morning is not enough" for children.

"Families should give them more," he said, "but, since most families—in my experience—do not, the churches must supply the remainder. That is why I am a great believer in the necessity and desirability of the weekday religious education program. It should be greatly broadened and deepened."

Noting the historic concern felt by Americans for the character development of their children, Mr. Mintener said they are convinced that the ethics and morals of young people "must be based upon a religious faith and motivated by spiritual compulsion."

"They recognize that the home and church are the chief teachers of such a vital faith," he said.

The official pointed out that, while constitutional and legal provisions commit American public education to the general principle of excluding sectarian religious instruction from the public schools, "this does not mean the problem of what to do about religion and the spiritual values in the public schools has been solved."

Southern Baptists Ask End Of Federal Grants

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — (RNS) — Southern Baptist leaders have petitioned Congress to end federal grants to hospitals operated by religious groups.

They urged the government to make long-term loans instead of outright construction grants as now provided in the Hill-Burton Act.

The action was taken by the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention at its semi-annual meeting here.

The petition said Southern Baptists oppose the Act on the ground that it violates the principle of separation of Church and State.

A committee spokesman said that, so far as he knew, no Baptist hospitals ever had accepted federal grants.

The petition was addresed to Sen. Lister Hill (D-Ala.), chairman of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, and Rep. J. Percy Priest (D.-Tenn.), chairman of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

Young Life Loses Its Tax Exemption Plea

DENVER —(RNS)— The Colorado Supreme Court ruled here that religious, charitable and educational groups incorporated in other states are not exempt from state taxes on property owned in Colorado.

The decision was handed down in a tax protest suit brought by the Young Life Campaign, a non-profit religious organization incorporated in Texas, which sponsors adult and high school camps featuring courses in Christian doctrine on a 700-acre site in the Colorado Rockies.

Similar groups organized under the laws of Colorado are tax exempt.

RADIO - TV

Lutheran League Plans Headquarters Building

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—Plans for construction of a $400,000 headquarters building at St. Louis, Mo., for the Lutheran Laymen's League were approved by district presidents of the organization at its 39th annual convention here.

The convention endorsed a campaign to increase membership in the league, a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod agency, from its present level of nearly 90,000 to 100,000 by the 1957 annual meeting.

At the opening session the International Lutheran Hour radio program, sponsored by the league, was inaugurated over a National Broadcasting Company network. Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffman of New York, Missouri Synod public relations director, was the broadcast speaker.

The broadcasts, now in their twenty-third year, will continue over the Mutual network and independent stations, in addition to NBC.

YOUTH

Reports Teenagers Turning to Religion

WINONA LAKE, Ind.—Despite reports of increasing juvenile delinquency teenagers are turning to religion in growing numbers, an official of Youth for Christ International declared at its 12th annual convention here.

Dr. Bob Cook of Wheaton, Ill., YFC president, said that during the past year more than 20,000 young people had "taken a definite Christian stand" at regular meetings of the 1,846 Bible Clubs fostered by the organization—nearly half of which are at high schools.

In addition, he said, 34,000 youngsters have made professions of faith at weekly rallies in public places and another 4,900 are in Christian colleges or Bible schools preparing for "definite Christian service."

Dr. Cook added that the convention's record-breaking registration of 4,000 persons from all states and several foreign countries was in itself an indication of a widespread religious revival.

"There is a great movement toward constructive living and good citizenship," he said. "The postwar upheaval, which always expresses itself in crime and dissolute living, is apparently spending itself, at least as far as youth is concerned, and there is a growing seriousness about life and its purposes."

Evangelist Billy Graham and members of his "team" were featured at an early session of the convention. Bible Hour speaker at each of the convention's morning sessions was Dr. H. H. Savage of Pontiac, Mich., president of the Conservative Baptist Association and former president of the National Association of Evangelicals.

EVANGELISM

Over 7,000 Decisions In Oklahoma Crusade

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Greater Oklahoma City Billy Graham Crusade closed in Owen Stadium at Norman. Owen Stadium, located just twenty miles south of Oklahoma City, is the home field of the University of Oklahoma football team. Fifty thousand persons were in attendance at this great closing service in spite of a near-100 degree temperature and intense traffic congestion on all highways leading to the massive football stadium. There were 1,335 decisions for Christ at the final meeting.

All told during the four-week crusade, attendance totalled 501,000 and there were 7,148 recorded decisions for Christ. Mr. Graham also spoke to 6,500 on the steps of the State capitol, 4,000 at a special Indian day service, 5,000 in the Capitol Hill high school stadium and 28,000 in Tulsa, Oklahoma on one of his Monday "rest nights."

The 7,148 recorded decisions included fifty-five who responded to the evangelist's invitation to "accept Christ" at the unique Indian day service held on the afternoon of June 23 in the municipal auditorium in Oklahoma City.

DENOMINATIONS

Church of God Gets Over Million Mission Offering

ANDERSON, Ind. — (RNS) — A record $1,555,110 was contributed to Church of God world missions at a special Christ's World Service Day service here climaxing the denomination's 68th international convention.

Church of God congregations in Ohio led all other states with contributions of $148,600.

A "This Is Your Life" feature of the dramatized service recalled to a typical missionary, Claire W. Shultz of Lima, O., now on furlough from Trinidad, B. W. I., the part that Church of God agencies had played in his life.

Dr. Dale Oldham, minister of the Christian Brotherhood Hour, gave a dramatized sermon stressing the growing needs of the Church.

An estimated 25,000 delegates attended the convention which had as many as 50 study conferences, workshops, worship services and church business meetings each day. The delegates came from some 46 states and 12 foreign countries.

Baptists Reaffirm Autonomy Principle

SEATTLE, Wash. — The General Association of Regular Baptists, holding its annual meeting here, adopted a resolution reaffirming "as one of its basic tenets the principle of the autonomy and independence of the local church." It repudiated as "un-Baptistic and unscriptural the contrary tendency."

The resolution held this tenet "is a scriptural doctrine" that "has been maintained through the years as the very genius of our Baptist testimony."

"We see this teaching being denied in both the Southern Baptist Convention and American Baptist Convention through the ursurpation of authority and the centralization of power in the hands of a few," the evangelical group said.

"Whereas this tendency has been largely unobserved and unopposed by a majority of Baptist churches across the land, we call upon Baptists everywhere to resist this violation of this New Testament truth and practice."

Another resolution condemned the recent visit of Russian Baptists:

"We do not believe that (the touring Russians) represent the true Baptists of Russia. The American welcome given these men is a betrayal of all the Baptists in Russia who have suffered or are suffering for their faith. They are false leaders forced upon the organized Baptists of Russia.

"There has been no evidence to indicate these men ever repudiated the Communist program or made any protest to the Communist government concerning the incarceration and extermination of their fellow Russian Christians."

Forty-four new churches in thirteen states were received into the Association here. This boosted the total to 770 churches with a total membership exceeding 100,000, the delegates were told.

The Omaha Baptist Bible Institute of Omaha, Neb., also became affiliated with the association. This brings to six the number of schools operated by the denomination. The others are Baptist Bible Seminary, Johnson City, N. Y.; Cedarville (Ohio) College; Grand Rapids (Mich.) Baptist Theological Seminary; Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary; and Western Baptist Bible College, Oakland.

Advent Christians Plan Headquarters Building

ALTON BAY, N. H. — Delegates to the 34th biennial General Conference of the Advent Christian Church voted to build a national headquarters building for the denomination. Although the site was not specified it is expected to be either Washington, D. C., or Charleston, W. Va.

They also voted to conduct a campaign for $30,000 to cover initial construction costs of the center.

The denomination, organized in 1860, has a membership of more than 30,000 in some 410 churches.

The conference called upon members to "express our purpose as churches and individuals to work for more truly Christian relations between the races and to manifest in practical ways, as the opportunity arises, our fellowship with Christians of all races."

Another resolution urged a curb on the advertising of alcoholic beverages, which were described as a "dangerous menace to the cause of Christianity and to our national security."

Evangelical Lutherans To Join World Council

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — (RNS) — The million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church voted, 1,434 to 685, at its national convention here, to seek membership immediately in the World Council of Churches.

The unexpected action cleared the way for the ELC to adopt the articles of union for the proposed merger with the American Lutheran Church and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church. The vote on adoption was 1,377 to 129.

The decision on the World Council was a crucial one since American Lutheran Church leaders had indicated they were not interested in merger if the new Church is not in the international organization.

UELC Merger Plans Eliminate Seminary

CEDAR FALLS, Ia. — Delegates to the annual meeting of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church here voted to affiliate Trinity Seminary at Blair, Neb., with the American Lutheran Church's Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Ia. The affiliation, which will become effective Sept. 1, 1956 was designated for a period of four years.

This action came on the heels of final approval by the delegates of a proposed merger in 1960 of the UELC with the American Lutheran and the Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

A record budget of $450,461 for synodical and foreign mission work was adopted.

Dr. Hans C. Jersild, the Church's retiring president, reported that the denomination now has a baptized membership of 59,832. This represents a gain of 2,924 members or 5.1 per cent over last year, he said.

Rev. William Larsen, executive director of the Lutheran Student Foundation of Minnesota, was chosen the new UELC president.

Covenant Church Turns Down Church Councils

CHICAGO — (RNS) — The Evangelical Mission Covenant Church of America has declined invitations to join all national and world church organizations.

A report adopted by its 71st annual meeting here said ecumenicity does not consist of official organizations and ecclesiastical machinery.

Rather, it consists of "the spirit of understanding and cooperation with the whole church as the body of Christ in the world," the report stated.

The delegates turned down membership bids from the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches and the National Association of Evangelicals.

Affiliation with ecumenical bodies "would precipitate a deep cleavage in our ranks," said the report prepared by the church's comity commission.

Pastors and local churches, however, were urged to be "neighborly and brotherly in all their relations with other local churches and church groups."

In his annual presidential report, Dr. Theodore W. Anderson of Evanston, Ill., noted that the denomination's 55,000 members had oversubscribed their diamond jubilee campaign of $1,750,000, with receipts now near $2,000,000.

North Park College here will receive $1,000,000 to increase its status from a junior to a senior institution.

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Missouri Synod Rejects World Federation Bid

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The 2,000,000-member Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod voted at its 43rd national convention here "to respectfully decline the invitation" to join the Lutheran World Federation.

Delegates adopted a resolution stating cooperation in the federation "would involve us in a union in spiritual matters with groups not in doctrinal agreement with us." But the synod expressed its willingness to meet with LWF officials to "discuss all points in question."

The LWF includes fifty-seven church bodies in twenty-nine countries and represents almost fifty million of the world's seventy million Lutherans.

The resolution said the LWF constitution "clearly indicates" that its nature and purposes include joint missions and educational activities, though it does not insist on "full confessional agreement" for member Churches.

The convention called on synodical and district officials to "deal vigorously" with "Romanizing tendencies" in the synod. The resolution did not spell out the objectionable practices, but it apparently referred to the use of acolytes, colorful vestments and other "high church" liturgical trends.

The Synod approved a long-range finance program which will challenge it to raise a total of $113,100,700 in the next six years. The synod's annual budget will be increased each year by 10.5 per cent—from the 1956 total of $12,900,000 to $23,412,000 by 1962.

The synod's board of directors was authorized to study the advisability of establishing additional educational institutions and to acquire potential sites suitable for campuses.

Appointment of a general Sunday school secretary was authorized. Such a secretary is necessary, the delegates were told, because the synod's Sunday schools have increased more than 200 per cent in the last twenty-five years. The present annual increase in enrollment was reported at 75,000 to 100,000.

Dr. John W. Behnken of St. Louis was re-elected to his eighth consecutive three-year term as president. But he announced that the current term would be his last. He has served as president since 1935.

Church Buys Illinois Camp Site for Youth

DIXON, Ill. — The Western Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church recently purchased a camp site near here on the banks of the Rock River. The camp will be developed to care for summer youth programs now conducted at Williams Bay Bible Camp in Wisconsin. For several years the Evangelical Free Church has rented the Wisconsin location to the Evangelical Congregational body. It is hoped to have the Dixon camp ready for use by 1958.

Cumberland Presbyterians Approve Enlarged Seminary

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. — (RNS) — The 126th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church voted here to make the denomination's ministerial training institution a full-fledged seminary, with eventual relocation in an urban center.

At present, ministerial training is handled as a graduate department of Bethel College in McKenzie, Tenn.

A special group of trustees was named to work out details for operation of the seminary including relocation when funds are available.

Rev. Hubert Morrow of Goodlettsville, Tenn., was elected moderator. Mr. Morrow served as executive secretary of the denomination's Board of Missions and Evangelism for more than five years before becoming pastor of the Goodlettsville church.

Christian Reformed Synod Approves Record Budget

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — (RNS) — A record budget of more than $4,267,000 for the next year was adopted by the annual synod of the Christian Reformed Church here. This is about $500,000 over last year's figure.

Largest item is for home missions—$1,085,000. Calvin College and Seminary here will receive $1,078,000, primarily for salary boosts and faculty expansion.

The budget will be raised by a proposed quota of $62.30 for each family in the Church. This year's family quota was just over $60.

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Dr. Ralph J. Danhof of Grand Rapids was elected first full-time stated clerk of the synod.

The delegates authorized the home missions committee to open ten new fields next year. Cities under consideration include Boston, Mass.; Syracuse, N. Y.; St. Louis, Mo.; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Buffalo, N. Y.; South Bend, Ind.; Fairbanks, Alaska; Omaha, Neb.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Toledo, O.; and Jackson, Mich.

Plans for celebrating the centenary of the Church next year were approved, including a denomination-wide thank offering April 7 to provide funds for a centennial memorial.

EDUCATION

Chicago Parents Start New Christian Academy

CHICAGO.—(E/P)—A group of parents in Chicago have announced plans to open a new Christian academy next September "because of the crying need for schools which are Christian in teachings and in actions."

To be known as Midwestern Christian Academy, the new school is sponsored by Midwest Bible church. Rev. Dick Wagner, youth director of the church, will be acting principal until a permanent one is named. The school will open with one hundred students in grades 1 through 8, plus kindergarten classes. Facilities available include fully equipped classrooms, a gymnasium, library and auditoriums.

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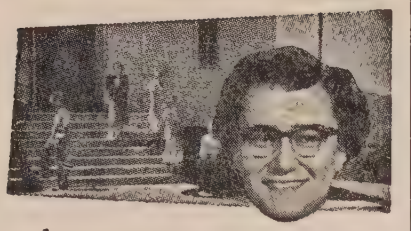

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The academy will be affiliated with the National Association of Christian Schools. Its curriculum, as announced, will be "equal or superior" to other grade schools.

Explaning the purpose behind the establishment of MCA, Principal Wagner says: "Many parents have realized that their youngsters are being educated in schools which leave God out and encourage the association of their boys and girls with those who are godless in teaching and in their lives."

United Lutherans Plan Christian Day Schools

HARRISBURG, Pa.—(RNS)—Establishment of parochial schools by congregations of the United Lutheran Church in America "where local conditions make such action advisable" will be proposed at the denomination's 20th biennial convention here Oct. 10 to 17.

The Board of Parish Education will ask the convention to authorize it to "establish objectives and standards for Christian day schools" and assist congregations, upon their request, in organizing and conducting such schools.

A recent survey showed that 60 per cent of the denomination's pastors believe the United Lutheran Church should promote the establishment of parochial schools, the board said.

Only 9.17 per cent of the pastors said the Church should discourage creation of the day schools, the board reported, while 8.4 per cent felt that the denomination should take no position at this time but await further developments.

The survey also disclosed that 16 ULCA congregations already have Christian day schools. One hundred and eighty-two pastors said they are contemplating the establishment of parochial schools in their parishes.

Dr. S. White Rhyne, board secretary, said the "general sentiment of our Church is in favor of public education" but a strong feeling exists that there are situations where parochial schools have "a signal service to render."

Interest in the creation of Christian day schools was especially keen in large urban areas, the survey showed.

Conservative Baptists' Minneapolis Seminary

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—A new theological school has been organized here "to fill the vacuum" left by the closing of the Northwestern College seminary. To be known as the "Central Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary" it will be located at Fourth Baptist church here.

Dr. Richard V. Clearwaters, pastor of the church and a former professor and dean of Northwestern seminary, will serve as president. He also will teach practical theology.

Other faculty members include Rev. Paul Kaufman, pastor at Stillwater, Minn., and a former Northwestern seminary professor; Rev. Elmer Johnson, University of Minnesota faculty member; and Dr. George Carlson and Dr. Chester E. Tulga, Conservative Baptist leaders both of Chicago, who will commute. Two others are considering appointments.

The school will be associated with

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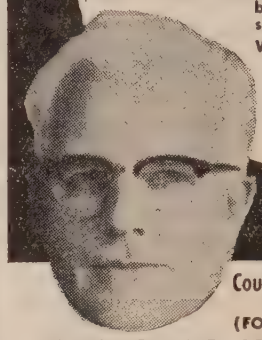

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the Conservative Baptist Association, Fellowship, Foreign Mission Society and Home Mission Society. Dr. Clearwaters is a former national president of the Conservative Baptist Association of America.

Northwestern College dropped its seminary recently and consolidated two remaining divisions in an effort to strengthen its financial position and gain scholastic accreditation. Dr. Richard A. Elvee, Northwestern president, said Dr. Clearwaters organized the new seminary "with my full knowledge and consent."

Approves Farm Purchase As New Calvin College Site

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—Purchase of a 166-acre farm near here as a possible site for a new Calvin College campus was authorized by the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church at its annual meeting here.

The estate, valued at $400,000, is owned by industrialist J. C. Miller. An option to purchase the property would have expired June 30 if the synod had not acted on the matter at its sessions here.

An advisory committee reported that $330,000 of the purchase price was available and that the remainder could be financed immediately.

The delegates were assured that purchase of the estate would not "irrevocably commit" the synod to move Calvin College and Seminary from Grand Rapids.

New School of Theology Graduates First Class

MYERSTOWN, Pa.—The School of Theology of the Evangelical Congregational Church graduated its first class this year. First diplomas went to four students completing the three-year course in the school opened three years ago. Rev. C. H. Mengel, Bishop-emeritus and president of the Board, presented the diplomas. Dr. Andrew Blackwood, professor of Homiletics at Temple School of Theology in Philadelphia, gave the commencement address.

The school, located at Myerstown, had twenty students enrolled the last semester. Next year it will have three full-time professors and two part-time. An effort to perpetuate the pietist movement with evangelical emphasis is the goal of the school.

MISSIONS

Reader's Digest Story Of Ecuador Martyrdom

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—(E/P)—The only officially authorized account of the Ecuador martyrdom of five evangelical missionaries last January has been condensed for the August issue of the *Reader's Digest*.

The book, written by missionary Abe C. Van Der Puy of World Radio Missionary Fellowship, Inc. (HCJB), has been titled *Through Gates of Splendor*. It will be published by Harper Bros., New York, and will be available next March.

The *Reader's Digest* condensation "Through Gates of Splendor," runs to 10,000 words and covers twenty pages. There is a two-page illustration showing "Palm Beach," the plane used by the missionaries, the prefabricated tree house, "George," "Delilah," the second Auca woman and two of the five fellows later speared to death.

Among evangelical institutions and agencies mentioned in the condensation are: Wheaton College; Missionary Aviation Fellowship; Radio Station HCJB and the boards to which the five missionaries belonged.

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Mission Schools Ask For Book Donations

BOSTON, Mass. — For the past four years World Evangelical Fellowship has, among other ministries, carried on a project of sending new and used books to Christian schools abroad. Most of these are greatly in need of better libraries.

Recently these gifts passed the 90,000 mark. They have been sent to about sixty countries. As the project is designed to serve schools on all levels of education, any books which would be suitable for the libraries of Christian grade or high schools, colleges, or seminaries in the United States will be received and forwarded, after being carefully sorted.

Books which are not in good condition or which are obsolete in content are not sent. Books which are not evangelical are not desired. Books in English are used with deep appreciation in hundreds of schools in many countries. However, we are glad to have books in other languages.

Shipments should be directed to World Evangelical Fellowship, 120 Tremont Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts.

Child Evangelism Reports on Clubs

WICHITA, Kan.—More than 5,000 Good News Clubs aimed at bringing religion and the Bible to non-churchgoing children on a block-to-block basis have been established in the last twenty years, officials of the Child Evangelism Fellowship reported here.

The report was made at the organization's 10th annual international conference attended by some 500 delegates from throughout the United States and fifteen foreign countries. Conference theme was "Let the Children Come."

Good News Clubs, it was explained, are completely non-denominational and may be started by any interested mother in her own home. Children of the neighborhood are invited to attend meetings to discuss Bible stories. Once a child expresses interest in going to Sunday school, the fellowship refers him to a minister or church of his choice.

Plans were made at the conference here for the distribution of 500,000 pieces of promotional literature during Child Evangelism Fellowship Week next Feb. 17-24. Some 350,000 pieces were given out during the 1956 week.

Rev. Franklin F. Ellis of Pacific Palisades, Calif., is international director of the organization.

Rescue Mission Is More Needed Today

ERIE, Pa.—Rescue missions are needed more today than ever before because of the growing alcoholism, Rev. H. E. Eberhardt, superintendent of Central Union Mission in Washington, D. C., said here.

He spoke at the 43rd annual convention of the International Union of Gospel Missions.

"Although there is less financial poverty today," Mr. Eberhardt said, "there is more spiritual and moral poverty, resulting in a need for gospel missions."

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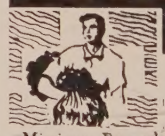

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—WORLD-WIDE—

Italian Protestants Win Second Court Victory

ROME — (RNS) — Italy's new Constitutional Court handed down a ruling in favor of the Rev. Giuseppe Pizzo, an Assemblies of God minister, in a case involving a religious liberty issue.

Mr. Pizzo had appealed a sentence passed upon him by a magistrate after he ignored a police order to leave the town of Alcamo, near Trapani, Sicily, where he held religious services.

The court abrogated Article 157 of the police laws, enacted in 1931, under which a person considered "dangerous to public order and security or public morals" could be deported by police to his home town. The article made violators subject to imprisonment for one to six months.

The tribunal held that the police law provision was contrary to Article 16 of the 1948 Constitution which grants citizens the right to circulate freely on Italian soil provided their activities are not detrimental to public health and security.

This was the second decision bearing on the rights of Protestants in Italy to be handed down by the Constitutional Court. In a recent ruling, involving Article 113 of the police laws, it implicitly upheld the right of Protestants to distribute leaflets and display signs publicly without prior police authorization.

Baptists Distressed by Protestant Persecution

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(RNS)—World Baptist leaders, in session here, voiced "deep distress" over reports of "continuing persecution" of Protestants in Colombia and "regrets" that the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Madrid, Spain, has not yet been reopened.

The executive committee of the Baptist World Alliance, holding its annual meeting, addressed resolutions directly to the President of Colombia and to Generalissimo Francisco Franco of Spain.

The resolution on Colombia referred to "reports of the continuing persecution of evangelical Christians at the hands of officials and of clergy of the Roman Catholic Church, aided by mob action."

"With a deep concern for the freedom of people of all religions and races," it added, "we appeal to the Colombian government to do all in its power to establish and secure order and liberty for all."

In its action on Spain, the committee expressed regret that the Madrid seminary and its school still remain closed although the government removed seals from the building.

"The present situation," the resolution said, "causes great distress of mind to all friends of Spain, including

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Spanish Evangelicals Faithful Under Trials

BARCELONA, Spain.—While evangelicals in Barcelona enjoy toleration denied to many in less favored parts of Spain, they cannot easily obtain permission to build adequately for their growing congregations. No edifices for new groups are allowed. United meetings are a serious problem, as public buildings cannot be used.

In a miracle of compression, the Spanish Evangelical Alliance crowded ten public meetings into four days when Rev. John Savage, of London, visited Barcelona last spring. It was with rejoicing that the Nogues St. Evangelical Church received news that permission had been granted for the building of their new church.

The publication of evangelical periodicals in Barcelona was stopped last year. Mr. Savage interviewed a printer who was arrested. The Spanish Evangelical Alliance considers it right to appeal against the fine, in order to cause the authorities to realize that evangelicals are forced to break the law. They cannot live without an essential minimum of literature. Such literature has to be printed clandestinely in the present circumstances.

As in Barcelona, so in Valencia were the meetings packed beyond safety point. All five evangelical churches came together. While Mr. Savage was preaching in the First Baptist Church, a woman arrived who had just been released from prison after serving a sentence for reading the Bible to four other women. Although the others were not believers, they were punished because they had listened. Two men are still in prison for similar offences. Private meetings are not allowed in many places in Spain. Groups who wish to meet and have presented their petitions to the authorities, have been prevented and punished. The right of meeting in a given place depends on the personal decision of the local governor. Over thirty chapels still remain closed.

PERSONALIA

Stephen W. Paine, president of Houghton College, was given the Annual Distinguished Service Award by the Wheaton College Alumni Association this year.

Oswald J. Smith, pastor of Peoples Church, Toronto will be the featured speaker in the annual ten-day series of rallies for the World's Literature Crusade in Western Canada this year. The WLC has recently provided eighteen million pieces of evangelical literature for distribution in Japan.

Harold E. Westerhoff, who has served as the administrative secretary of the International Society of Christian Endeavor for the past five years and an active youth leader, has been named executive secretary of the Society.

Walter Olson, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Waukegan, Ill., was elected moderator of the Baptist General Conference of America at its 1956 meeting. He succeeds Dr. C. Ragnar Wall, Minneapolis surgeon.